

Chocolate Marchers rejoice



Sisters Sharon Greenleaf of Bangor, left, and Gail Grzegorowicz of Portland, Conn., attended Chocolate March in Rockland together. They enjoyed dipping strawberries in the chocolate fountain at Berry Manor Inn.

**Text and photos by
Kelly Michaud**

ROCKLAND — The Historic Inns of Rockland and downtown merchants welcomed chocolate lovers over the weekend during the city's inaugural Chocolate March event.

The event was organized by the innkeepers of The Berry Manor Inn, LimeRock Inn and Captain Lindsey House Inn to benefit United Mid-Coast Charities.

"It was a great beginning effort to show what we can do when small businesses work together," said Cheryl Michaelsen of Berry Manor Inn. "We thought it went great."

The group welcomed more than 100 participants and raised \$500 for the charity, Michaelsen said.

"It is short of our goal but we are still thrilled," she said.

Out of all the participants, 77 percent participated in both days and more than 29 percent visited more than 20 merchants, she said.

Michaelsen said they all learned things that they will be able to do better and next year's event will be even bigger. It will be held March 10 and 11, and they plan to add more merchants to the event.

The event may get a national audience, as well. Portions from the weekend festivities may air on the Food Network's show "The Secret Life Of" when the chocolate segment airs.

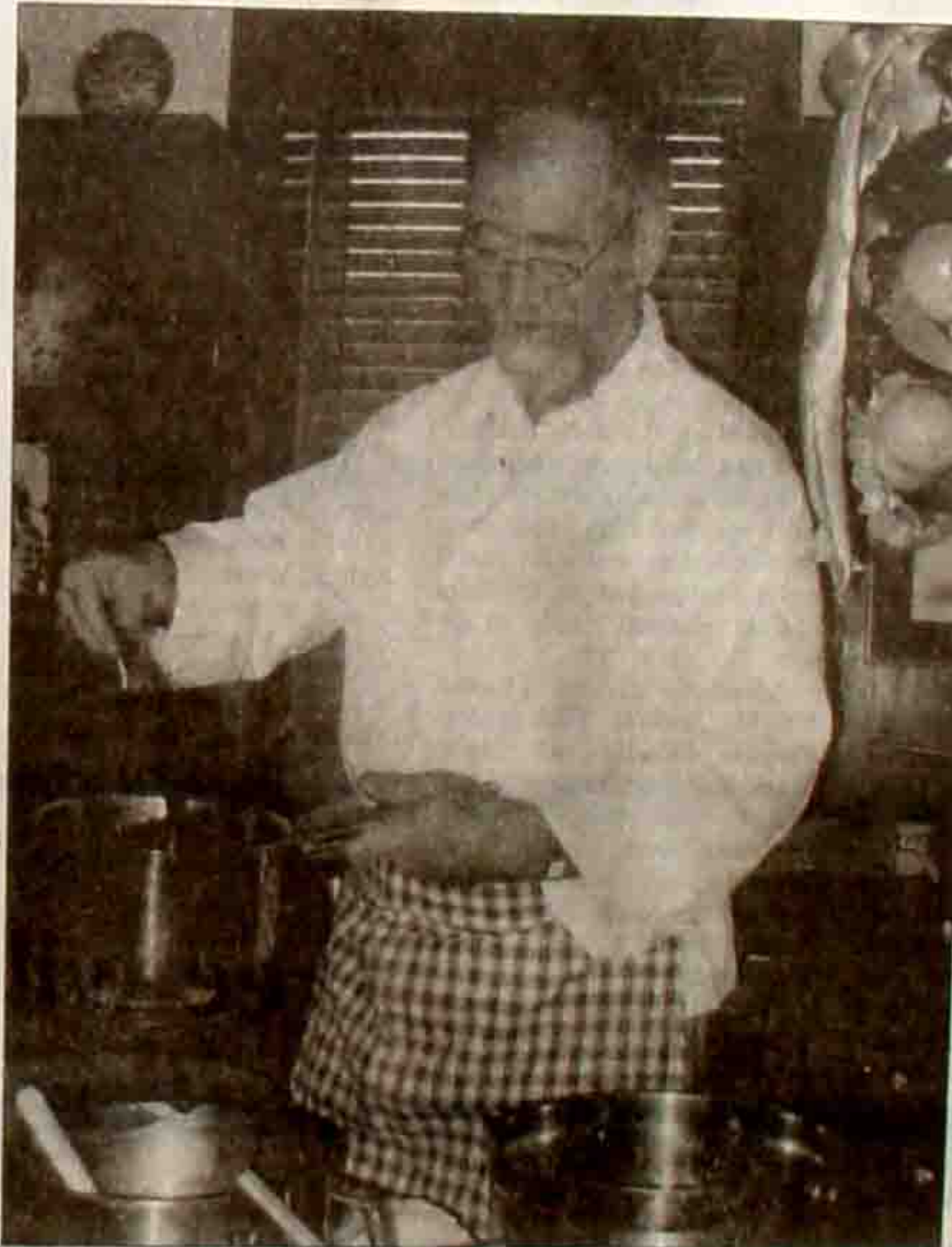
"The whole event sounded very different and interesting to them," said PJ Walter of the LimeRock Inn.

Because of timing, the Food

Network was unable to send a film crew to the area so the inns hired a videographer. Walter said they plan to send the raw footage out in the next few days and hope to hear back in the next few weeks about whether they will be a part of the show. They focused on the chocolate breakfast served and the demonstrations at the inns, Walter said.

Also, the inns held a raffle for several prizes. Summer AliAriza of Rockland won the grand prize, which is valued at more than \$550. Heidi-Anne Brown of South Portland and Rebecca Albright of Rockland won baskets valued at \$150 and Stephanie Dow of Monroe and Sandy Lundquist of Rockland won baskets valued at \$50.

Kelly Michaud can be reached at Kelly@SteppinOutMaine.com.



Capt. Ken Barnes of the Captain Lindsey House in Rockland offered a demonstration on how to melt and temper chocolate during Sunday's portion of Chocolate March.



Jennifer Temple of Rockland holds her daughter Liefe Temple, 3, as she samples the sipping chocolate at Second Read Books & Coffee at 328 Main St., Rockland, on Saturday. Second Read was one of the downtown businesses that participated in the weekend Chocolate March event.



Patty Hyland of Treasures from the Heart gave a demonstration at the LimeRock Inn on how to make chocolate-scented soaps Sunday.